



COLONIAL REPORTS

Falkland Islands

1952 and 1953

LONDON: HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1954

THREE SHILLINGS NET

COLONIAL OFFICE

REPORT ON

The

FALKLAND ISLANDS

and Dependencies

FOR THE YEARS

1952 & 1953

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Review of 1952 and 1953

THE highlight of the period under review was the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and this event was celebrated throughout the Colony and its Dependencies in a manner befitting such a great occasion.

The years 1952 and 1953 saw the general level of revenue for both the Colony and its Dependencies sustained and the Colony's reserves were more than doubled as a result of the phenomenal prices obtained for wool during 1951.

On 26th April, 1952, the Governor laid the foundation stone of the new Infants' School in Stanley and in 1953 plans were approved for a boarding school at Darwin, which is being erected by the Falkland Islands Company as a gift to the Colony and which will subsequently be staffed and maintained by Government.

The Churchill Wing of the Hospital was formally opened on 23rd May, 1953 ; this extension, which the Prime Minister has honoured with his name, comprises general wards, private wards, maternity wing, X-ray department, out-patients department, laboratory, dispensary, boardroom, staff dining room, duty room, kitchen and laundry. A Camp dentist was appointed in 1952 and in 1953 a Tuberculosis Specialist embarked on a Colony-wide survey. The old wing of the Hospital has been converted into a Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

The freezer at Ajax Bay started operations in 1953 and the first frozen mutton was exported in June of that year. The control of the project has been transferred by the Colonial Development Corporation to a local company.

The Air Service was augmented by the purchase of a Canadian de Havilland Beaver seaplane which has proved most suitable for local conditions and the Harbourmaster was trained in England as a relief pilot.

The old age pension scheme was brought into force in 1952 and a census of the population of the Islands was taken on 28th March, 1953.

Considerable improvements have been made to the broadcasting service. A whole-time secretary has been appointed and the hours of broadcasting have been increased ; new transmitting equipment has been obtained and awaits installation.

A mechanical peat-winning machine has been purchased by Government.

There was a considerable increase in the activities of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey as a result of the re-opening of the stations at Port Lockroy and at Hope Bay. The former is operated as an ionospheric recording station while the latter, on the Grahamland mainland, serves as a convenient base from which sledge journeys for topographical and geological surveys of the Peninsula can be carried out. Meteorology has continued more or less on the same scale

though the additional data provided by the extra Bases has led to more reliable forecasting.

With the appointment of a Medical Officer to serve at Hope Bay a limited amount of medical research has been possible.

The s.v. *John Biscoe* was re-designated a Royal Research Ship and took part in the Coronation Naval Review at Spithead.

The Government Jetty at South Georgia was repaired and strengthened and the first of two radio navigation beacons was erected there.

(A) *THE COLONY*

PART I

Chapter 1 : Population

THE population is entirely white and has been derived to a large extent from the United Kingdom, though there are several Scandinavian strains. On 31st December, 1953, the population numbered 2,220 (2,230) of whom 1,230 (1,248) were males and 990 (982) females. The density of the population is approximately one person to every two square miles. About half the inhabitants live in Stanley while the rest are divided, more or less equally, between the East and West Falklands. The number of births registered in 1953 was 46 (55) of which 24 (28) were male and 22 (27) female children. During the year there were 19 (24) marriages and 27 (33) deaths of which 3 (2) were infants under two years of age. One hundred and forty-four (209) persons arrived in the Colony and 185 (281) left. The total population has decreased over the last twenty years by about 5 per cent though the population of Stanley shows a slight increase. The census taken on 28th March, 1953, gave a population total of 2,230 of which 1,246 were males and 984 females.

Figures for 1952 are in brackets.

Chapter 2 : Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

EMPLOYMENT

There is a general shortage of labour in the Colony and, in consequence, there is no unemployment. The principal industry, sheep farming, employs approximately 500 men. Labour in Stanley is mainly at the disposal of the Government and the Falkland Islands Company Limited, —the former employed an average of 60 men on hourly wages during 1953, and the latter employed 71. A number of men, many of whom were from the United Kingdom, were employed on the construction of the Colonial Development Corporation's freezer at Ajax Bay, and others were engaged in sealing until the company at Albemarle closed down in late 1953.

The Public Works Department employs a few artisans engaged under contract terms from the United Kingdom. Several farm managers have also found it necessary to import labour from the United Kingdom to work as shepherds and navvies in the Camp.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

In Stanley during 1952 and 1953, unskilled labourers were paid at the rate of 1s. 8d. per hour, plus a cost-of-living bonus which, at the end of 1953, stood at 7d. per hour. Skilled labourers and artisans received 1s. 11d. and 2s. 1d. respectively, plus a cost-of-living bonus. The hours of work were 45 per week. On 1st January, 1952, 4d. of the cost-of-living bonus was merged into the basic wage.

In the Camp general labourers, termed "navvies", receive £11 per month on the West Falkland and £10 10s. 0d. per month on the East Falkland, and shepherds £12 10s. 0d. and £12 per month respectively. The Camp monthly cost-of-living bonus fluctuates between £7 6s. 3d. and £8 2s. 6d. In addition Camp labourers receive free quarters, fuel, meat and milk.

COST OF LIVING

Mutton is the staple meat ; beef is little used except in winter, and the supply of fresh fish, fowls and pork is irregular. The wild Upland Goose is eaten at all seasons and gives some variety to a restricted diet. Vegetables are not easily bought and the majority of householders grow their own.

There are three hotels and a few boarding houses in Stanley which offer varying degrees of comfort at terms ranging from 30s. to 70s. per week. Several householders are also willing to take one or two paying guests. Rents for furnished houses vary from £4 to £6 10s. a month.

The rents of unfurnished houses for working people are from £3 per month. In the majority of cases Government provides houses for its overseas officials at a rent of 5 per cent of their salaries. Houses if not so obtained are very difficult to rent and relatively expensive to buy.

Prices continued to rise sharply until the middle of 1952 when the cost of living steadied and remained unchanged up to the end of 1953. The following are prices of the more important commodities as in December, 1951, and December, 1953.

	1951	1953
Bread	10d. per 2-lb. loaf	1s. 1d. per 2-lb. loaf
Butter (imported)	3s. 6d. per lb.	4s. 0d. per lb.
Margarine	2s. 8d. per lb.	2s. 10d. per lb.
Coffee	6s. 0d. per lb.	6s. 11d. per lb.
Tea	6s. 3d. per lb.	3s. 8d. per lb.
Eggs	3s. 0d. per doz.	4s. 0d. per doz.
Flour	4d. per lb.	5½d. per lb.
Meat: Beef	4½d. per lb.	5d. per lb.
Mutton	3d. per lb.	4½d. per lb.
Pork	2s. 6d. per lb.	2s. 6d. per lb.
Ham	7s. 5d. per lb.	8s. 1d. per lb.
Bacon	2s. 10d. to 3s. 2d. per lb.	4s. 2d. to 4s. 4d. per lb.
Milk	5d. per pint	5d. per pint
Jam	2s. 4d. to 4s. 8d. per 2-lb.	2s. 2d. to 3s. 5d. per 2-lb.
Sugar	1s. 0d. per lb.	8½d. per lb.
Vegetables :		
Onions (imported)	4d. per lb.	8d. per lb.
Potatoes (imported)	4d. per lb.	7d. per lb.

Dried Fruit :			
Sultanas	1s. 10d. per lb.		1s. 9d. per lb.
Currants	1s 9d. per lb.		1s. 9d. per lb.
Raisins	1s. 10d. per lb.		1s. 10d. per lb.
Quaker Oats	2s. 10d. per pkt.		2s. 11d. per pkt.
Cereals	1s 0d to 1s 7d. per pkt.		1s. 7d. per pkt.
Cigarettes	7s. 2d. to 8s. 4d. per 100	7s. 6d. to 10s. 2d. per 100	
Tobacco	23s. 8d. to 24s. 6d. per lb.	23s. 8d. to 29s. 8d. per lb.	
Alcohol :			
Whisky	22s. 4d. to 25s. 3d. per bottle	23s. 1d. to 24s. 1d. per bottle	
Brandy	19s. 0d. per bottle	22s. 1d. to 31s. 2d. per bottle	
Gin	18s. 9d. to 19s. 8d. per bottle	18s. 8d. to 19s. 3d. per bottle	
Beer	22s. 0d. to 32s. 7d. per doz.	28s. 8d. to 35s. 9d. per doz.	
	(qts.)	(qts.)	
Paraffin	3s. 9d. per gallon	3s. 6d. per gallon	
Petrol	4s. 7d. per gallon	4s. 10d. per gallon	
Electricity	3d. per unit (plus flat quarterly rate of £1)	3d. per unit (plus flat quarterly rate of £1)	

An important item in the domestic economy is peat, the only fuel generally available, which is sold by the cart-load. A lorry-load (three cart-loads) costs £1 8s. 0d. and a year's supply averages 15 to 40 loads according to the size of the house, the number of fires and the quality of the peat. The majority of the local inhabitants cut and stack their own peat and have only the expense of carting it from the peat-bank. Unfortunately, but obviously, these banks are moving further and further from Stanley as the years go by, and in the Camp some settlements are having difficulty in obtaining a good supply. Experiments are now being made with mechanical peat-winning machinery.

Chapter 3 : Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Revenue for 1952-53, including receipts from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, amounted to £397,759 and expenditure, including that on Colonial Development and Welfare schemes, was £289,661.

The revenue and expenditure figures since 1st January, 1946 are as follows :

	Revenue		Expenditure	
	Ordinary	Total	Ordinary	Total
	£	£	£	£
1946	198,601	198,879	219,854	222,164
1947	103,463	103,788	115,620	124,289
1948	128,617	148,934	121,842	162,694
1949	166,838	169,811	112,436	163,912
1950	179,322	218,754	111,762	204,042
1951-52 (15 months)* .	437,030	452,974	170,308	362,469
1952-53	377,836	397,759	168,245	289,661
1953-54 (revised estimate)	232,128	237,205		219,896

* Financial year altered to end on 31st March.

The main heads of revenue and expenditure in 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953-54 were as follows :

	REVENUE		1953-54
	1951-52*	1952-53	<i>Revised Est.</i>
	£	£	£
Customs	140,818	53,162	53,355
Dependencies contribution to cost of Central Administration	10,000	10,000	10,000
Internal Revenue	192,143	247,719	103,519
Interest	13,581	12,582	14,947
Posts and Telegraphs	56,308	30,731	21,335

	EXPENDITURE		1953-54
	1951-52*	1952-53	<i>Estimate</i>
	£	£	£
Governor	4,433	3,629	3,949
Agriculture	3,709	3,103	3,722
Customs	2,211	11,213	1,691
Education	9,675	8,350	11,060
Harbour and Aviation	12,934	20,237	18,979
Medical	17,213	12,806	16,682
Pensions	6,335	5,566	7,575
Police and Prisons	3,387	3,132	3,227
Posts and Telegraphs	22,403	19,459	21,906
Public Works Department	18,428	18,391	15,483
Public Works Recurrent	21,341	22,926	17,311
Secretariat and Treasury	11,731	12,225	11,415

* 15 months.

There is no public debt. The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st March, 1953, was £460,854 and on the same date the reserve fund amounted to £244,278.

Expenditure during 1952-53 on approved schemes financed by grants from Colonial Development and Welfare funds amounted to £16,759 bringing the total expenditure at 31st March, 1953 to £162,596 of which £53,647 has been met from Colony sources.

TAXATION

The main heads of taxation are customs duties and income tax.

Customs Tariff

Import duties are payable at the following rates :

Wines : General, 6s. 6d. per gallon in bulk ; Empire 4s. 6d. per gallon in bulk.

General, 14s. 3d. per dozen quart bottles ; Empire 9s. 9d. per dozen.

Spirits : 52s. per gallon, except Rum 36s. per gallon.

Malt Liquors : 1s. per gallon in cask, 1s. per dozen pint bottles.

Tobacco : 6s. per lb.

Cigarettes : 10s. per lb.

Matches : General 10s. per gross boxes ; British 5s. per gross.

Export duties during 1953 were payable at the following rates :

Wool : *Ad valorem* duty : 2d. per lb. for 1953 clip. (1½d. per lb. in 1952).

Tallow, hides and skins : 2½ per cent of selling price.

Whale and seal oil : 6d. per barrel of 40 gallons for each £5 of the average market price per ton of first grade oil.

Other Whale and Seal products : 6d. per 100 lb.

Revenue received during 1952-53 : Import duties £25,564 ; Export duties £27,598.

Income Tax

The following were the rates on taxable income for 1953 :

Companies	3s. 6d. per £	
Individuals	First £100	Nil
	Next £100	1s. 0d. per £
	„ £250	2s. 0d. „
	„ „	2s. 6d. „
	„ „	3s. 0d. „
	Above £950	3s. 6d. „

Allowances

Married Person	£100
Children under 16 years	£40 first child, £25 others.
Earned Income	One-tenth (maximum £100).
Dependant	£25
Insurance or Pension Fund contributions	Premiums or contributions (maximum one-sixth of chargeable income).

Revenue received during 1952-53 : Companies £188,443 ; Individuals £55,559.

Chapter 4 : Banking and Currency

There are no commercial banks in the Colony, but the Treasury will remit funds abroad on payment of a commission of one per cent. A similar service is also provided by the Falkland Islands Company Limited, and the Estate Louis Williams who operate agencies of Lloyds Bank Limited and Hambros Bank Limited respectively.

Deposits in the Government Savings Bank amounted to £805,060 on 31st December, 1953, and the number of depositors' accounts open was 1,888. Interest on deposits is paid at the rate of 2½ per cent per annum.

The legal tender of the Colony consists of Falkland Islands Government currency notes of £5, £1, and 10s. denominations and United

Kingdom coinage. The note circulation increased from £69,666 on 31st December, 1952 to £75,666 on 31st December, 1953.

Chapter 5 : Commerce

With the exception of meat and a limited quantity of vegetables and fruit, practically the whole of the Colony's requirements in foodstuffs is imported.

The values of imports and exports and sources of supply for 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953 were as follows :

I M P O R T S					
	1949 £	1950 £	1951 £	1952 £	1953 £
Food, drink and tobacco .	58,202	70,781	88,077	127,521	109,457
Raw materials and mainly un-manufactured goods .	35,625	59,085	69,091	151,254	98,526
Mainly manufactured goods	194,962	197,393	280,090	378,021	382,801
Miscellaneous	5,726	1,113	3,445	5,233	2,304
Bullion and Specie	—	—	—	42	456
Total Imports	<u>£294,515</u>	<u>£328,372</u>	<u>£440,703</u>	<u>£662,071</u>	<u>£593,544</u>

E X P O R T S (I N C L U D I N G R E - E X P O R T S)					
	1949 £	1950 £	1951 £	1952 £	1953 £
Wool .	384,820	542,956	557,736	656,623	346,170
Hides & Skins	25,878	19,419	32,673	38,178	16,863
Tallow .	7,110	2,141	1,877	2,548	1,700
Livestock .	2,000	1,201	880	3,702	—
Seal Oil .	—	—	21,444	5,368	—
Frozen Meat	—	—	—	—	10,110
Other articles	914	30	347	761	370
Exports	<u>£420,722</u>	<u>£565,747</u>	<u>£614,957</u>	<u>£707,180</u>	<u>£375,213</u>
Re-exports	<u>8,286</u>	<u>3,280</u>	<u>7,006</u>	<u>8,227</u>	<u>6,259</u>
Total Exports	<u>£429,008</u>	<u>£569,027</u>	<u>£621,963</u>	<u>£715,407</u>	<u>£381,472</u>

SOURCES OF IMPORTS (PERCENTAGES)

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
British Commonwealth .	79.60	81.19	85.28	77.21	82.87
Foreign Countries .	20.40	18.81	14.72	22.79	17.13

PRINCIPAL SUPPLYING COUNTRIES

	1949 £	1950 £	1951 £	1952 £	1953 £
United Kingdom .	212,213	251,362	360,164	494,597	481,276
Other Parts of Commonwealth .	19,115	15,227	15,646	16,931	10,638
Argentina .	17,839	15,948	14,641	22,529	21,251
Chile .	—	8,394	8,617	22,752	19,324
Sweden .	16,212	3,819	3,316	59,236	36,096
Uruguay .	15,950	17,510	16,349	25,512	16,405
U.S.A. .	4,617	1,615	1,538	3,632	958
Finland .	—	12,033	9,787	—	—

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS AND SOURCES OF SUPPLY, 1951

<i>Item</i>	<i>Value £</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Principal Supplying Countries</i>
Provisions	58,870	—	U.K. £35,266, Uruguay £738, Argentine £11,201
Hardware	131,835	—	U.K. £122,116, Uruguay £1,029, U.S.A. £1,538, Sweden £3,316
Drapery	11,933	—	U.K. £11,933
Coal, coke & fuel oil	15,988	—	U.K. £2,738, Uruguay £13,074
Timber	34,404	—	U.K. £16,879, Sweden £2,230, Chile £5,500, Finland £9,787
Paint	12,054	—	U.K. £11,750, Sweden £304
Chemicals	8,764	—	U.K. £7,704, Uruguay £709
Beer	4,380	10,390 gallons	U.K. £4,380
Spirits	8,482	10,630 gallons	U.K. £8,482
Tobacco	11,970	17,479 lb.	U.K. £11,939
Wines	1,578	1,249 gallons	U.K. £482, South Africa £163, Portugal £340, Spain £301

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS, 1951

<i>Item</i>	<i>Value £</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Destination</i>
Wool	557,736	4,319,351 lb.	United Kingdom
Tallow	1,877	670 cwt.	United Kingdom
Hides and Skins	32,673	2,957 cwt.	United Kingdom
Live Sheep	880	880 animals	Chile

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS AND SOURCES OF SUPPLY, 1952

<i>Item</i>	<i>Value £</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Principal Supplying Countries</i>
Provisions . . .	79,108	—	U.K. £43,709, Uruguay £4,521, Argentine £18,179
Hardware . . .	190,431	—	U.K. £183,053, Uruguay £635, U.S.A. £3,592
Drapery . . .	14,056	—	U.K. £14,056
Coal, coke and fuel oil . . .	32,450	—	U.K. £23,283, Uruguay £9,167
Timber . . .	98,966	—	Sweden £57,868, Chile £20,897, U.K. £16,731, Norway £3,470
Paint . . .	16,166	1,386 cwt.	U.K. £16,166
Chemicals . . .	18,234	—	U.K. £15,170, Tunisia £2,400, Uruguay £664
Beer . . .	15,172	56,441 gallons	U.K. £15,172
Spirits . . .	10,152	6,042 gallons	U.K. £9,120
Tobacco . . .	15,441	19,675 lb.	U.K. £15,441
Wines . . .	2,570	1,939 gallons	U.K. £1,089, Portugal £342, Spain £967

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS, 1952

<i>Item</i>	<i>Value £</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Destination</i>
Wool . . .	656,623	4,065,023 lb.	United Kingdom
Tallow . . .	2,548	683 cwt.	United Kingdom
Hides and Skins . . .	38,178	4,275 cwt.	United Kingdom
Seal Oil . . .	5,368	711 barrels	United Kingdom
Live Sheep . . .	3,702	1,234 animals	Chile

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS AND SOURCES OF SUPPLY, 1953

<i>Item</i>	<i>Value £</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Principal Supplying Countries</i>
Provisions . . .	75,196	—	U.K. £48,191, Uruguay £3,001, Argentine £15,852
Hardware . . .	252,816	—	U.K. £245,849, Uruguay £301, U.S.A. £958
Drapery . . .	7,682	—	U.K. £7,672
Coal, coke and fuel oil . . .	22,759	—	U.K. £10,202, Uruguay £11,501
Timber . . .	60,678	—	U.K. £6,737, Chile £18,889, Sweden £35,052
Paint . . .	8,547	1,306 cwt.	U.K. £8,419, Sweden £128
Chemicals . . .	9,389	—	U.K. £9,148, Uruguay £227
Beer . . .	8,206	15,304 gallons	U.K. £8,206
Spirits . . .	10,291	6,427 gallons	U.K. £10,291
Tobacco . . .	7,464	10,044 lb.	U.K. £7,464
Wines . . .	1,645	989 gallons	U.K. £1,633

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS, 1953

<i>Item</i>	<i>Value £</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Destination</i>
Wool . . .	346,170	3,957,819 lb.	United Kingdom
Tallow . . .	1,700	486 cwt.	United Kingdom
Hides and Skins . . .	16,863	1,977 cwt.	United Kingdom
Frozen Meat . . .	10,110	405,343 lb.	United Kingdom

Chapter 6 : Production

The main industry is sheep farming and this is primarily concerned with the production of wool, skins and tallow (a by-product) for export. There is also some export of hides and since 1953 frozen mutton.

The land, with the exception of some 40,000 acres remaining to the Crown, is freehold and is divided into sheep farms varying in size from 3,600 to 400,000 acres and carrying from 1,700 to 50,000 sheep, approximately one sheep to every three acres. The Crown land can be rented. There is no agriculture other than some limited crops of oaten hay.

The average weight of wool exported over the last five years was 4,155,979 pounds. In 1952 4,065,023 pounds were exported and in 1953 3,957,819 pounds.

Hides and skins to the value of £38,178 were exported in 1952 and £16,863 in 1953. The wool crops in 1952 and 1953 were exported to the United Kingdom.

During 1952 two bulls and nine rams were imported from the United Kingdom, 40 horses and six rams from Chile ; 52 horses from Uruguay.

In 1953 one bull, eight rams and one dog were imported from the United Kingdom ; 20 rams were imported from New Zealand ; 18 fowls, six pigeons and two canaries were imported from Uruguay and one horse and two turkeys were imported from Chile.

The Colonial Development Corporation sealing venture at Albe-marle was forced to suspend operations at the end of 1952 and the company subsequently went into liquidation. Labour shortages, machinery breakdowns and a drop in the price of oil were contributory factors.

Other resources at present undeveloped are the extensive kelp (*Macrocystis*) beds, whales, which are found in the surrounding waters, and deep-sea fishing.

Chapter 7 : Social Services

EDUCATION

The Government is responsible for education throughout the Colony. It is compulsory in Stanley between the age of 5 and 14 and voluntary classes enable study to be continued to the age of 16. Evening classes are also held during the winter months open to all who wish to attend but, apart from Government employees, whose attendance up to the age of 18 is compulsory, the response is poor.

In Stanley there are two schools ; an infants' school and an all-range school. Boarding allowances, at present £2 per month, are granted to assist Camp children to attend school in Stanley.

Camp children of 5 to 14 living within one mile and children of 7 to 14 living within two miles of a settlement school must attend it. Other children in the Camp are visited, where possible, by travelling teachers.

In 1953 there were four full-time settlement schools, two part-time schools and five travelling teachers on the East Falkland, and three full-time schools and four travelling teachers on the West Falkland.

Under the agreement with the Dorset County Council one boy was sent on scholarship to a County Grammar School in 1952 and a boy and a girl in 1953. The arrangement for voluntary secondment of Dorset teachers to the Colony has so far realised only one candidate.

Plans for the erection of a boarding school at Darwin have been approved and work is due to begin in 1954.

HEALTH

The climate is generally healthy but the consistency with which fine weather is marred by strong winds is rather trying, especially to people from the United Kingdom where the association of strong winds with sunshine is uncommon. The Islands have a daily average of four hours sunshine, and the annual average rainfall is 28 inches.

The quality of food in the Colony is good, but the variety poor. A supply of green vegetables depends entirely upon the activity of the householder who should be able to produce a nine-month supply, though many obtain green vegetables throughout the year. In many areas in the Camp the cultivation of vegetables, other than potatoes, is not undertaken. A limited supply of fresh fruit, which is generally expensive and seldom reaches the Camp in quantity, is imported from the Argentine and Uruguay ; but white and red currants, raspberries, gooseberries, strawberries and rhubarb grow well in sheltered gardens.

In May, 1953, the Churchill Wing of the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital was opened by the Governor. The new wing contains 17 beds and has a well equipped theatre, X-ray department, out-patients' department and dental surgery besides the usual hospital offices.

The staff of the Medical Department during 1953 comprised the Senior Medical Officer, two Medical Officers (one being on the West Falkland), one Tuberculosis Officer, who is engaged on a tuberculosis survey of the Islands, one dentist in Stanley and one dentist who toured the Camp. The staff of the Hospital consisted of one matron, three nursing sisters, three nurses and a district nurse.

During 1953, 104 (120) patients were admitted to hospital and 3,558 (4,394) visits were paid to the out-patients' department ; 42 (81) operations were performed—24 (19) major and 18 (62) minor—and 6 (11) patients died in hospital. (Figures for 1952 are in brackets).

A well attended ante- and post-natal clinic is held in the hospital. Forty-six (55) babies were delivered, with no maternal deaths in either year.

An Air Ambulance is available for medical cases from the Camp. Should bad weather make flying impossible, the m.v. *Philomel*, which is fitted to carry patients, is available.

HOUSING

The majority of the houses in the Colony are of timber construction, frequently with metal outer covering ; the roofs are usually of corrugated iron. Concrete block building, particularly for Government premises, is now becoming more popular. Plans for all new buildings must be submitted for approval and must conform to the sanitation and constructional requirements of the Board of Health. There is a shortage of housing in Stanley due mainly to the high cost of materials and freightage and the shortage of labour.

The Government maintains accommodation for most of its overseas officials. Two blocks of small houses are available for rental by the poorer members of the community. These premises are liable to inspection and the tenants must keep them in a sanitary condition. The Board of Health has power to condemn houses which are unfit for habitation.

SOCIAL WELFARE AND AMENITIES

There are no orphanages or poor law institutions. Poor relief is administered by the Stanley Town Council and approximately £800 is disbursed annually. Accommodation for old and chronic invalids is provided in the Hospital.

Legislation exists for the payment of workmen's compensation and a local society, the Stanley Benefit Club, provides payments to its members in the event of death and sickness. Legislation providing for an old age contributory pension scheme was introduced in 1952. The scheme is compulsory for all residents in the Colony. Children's allowances based on the size of families are also payable to all residents.

There are four social clubs in Stanley : the Colony Club, the Falkland Club, the Working Men's Social Club and the Falkland Islands Defence Force Club. Membership of the last is confined to past or present members of the Force.

Rifle shooting is one of the most popular pastimes in Stanley and the Defence Force Rifle Association has a range with firing points up to 1,000 yards. A high standard of shooting is maintained and, weather permitting, shoots are held every Sunday during the summer. The Colony has been represented at Bisley in the inter-colonial competition on several occasions. "Postal" shoots are also keenly contested. There is a miniature rifle range in the Drill Hall and this is open to members and their wives.

The Drill Hall is also used for badminton and table-tennis. Folk dancing was revived in 1951 and is still most popular.

In 1953 The Falkland Islands Company completed the construction of a squash court in Stanley. The building, which was prefabricated in Sweden, is of wooden construction with a perspex roof and a gallery for spectators. This generous gift to the Colony has proved a most popular and welcome amenity.

Football is a very popular outdoor sport and the Club is well supported by both players and spectators.

The Stanley Sports Association holds an annual meeting in December for horse racing, gymkhana and athletic events. Race meetings are also held at Darwin and at the principal settlements in turn on the West Falkland.

The Working Men's Club holds a sports meeting annually for children and also organises various parties.

The Physical Training and Boxing Club, formed in 1951, is very well supported and has proved of great benefit to Stanley youths and men. A boxing tournament is held each year.

The Shooting and Fishing Club, formed in 1950, remains as popular as ever.

The Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers celebrated its sixth anniversary in 1953. There is also a local branch of the Red Cross and Order of St. John.

A Natural History Centre was inaugurated in July, 1951. It received strong support, and much valuable information of local flora and fauna has been collected. Many people in the Camp correspond and contribute specimens.

The 1st Falkland Islands Company of the Boys' Brigade has been in existence since 1944. Training is carried out during the winter months. Classes are held in signalling (semaphore and morse), ambulance, physical training and drill. The strength in 1953 was 43. Ten boys are to attend the International Camp to be held in the United Kingdom in 1954.

The Girls' Club was formed in November, 1952, and in December, 1953, became a unit of the Girls' Life Brigade. The total membership is 40.

There are three places of worship : Christ Church Cathedral consecrated in 1892, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church established in 1899, and the Tabernacle (United Free Church) established in 1896.

Church services are relayed every Sunday evening through the broadcasting station in Stanley for the benefit of Camp listeners.

There is a small church at Darwin which is used by visiting ministers.

The new Town Hall, built with the assistance of a grant from Colonial Development and Welfare funds and opened in 1950, contains a dance hall with stage, dressing rooms, refreshment room and a well stocked and well patronised library. The museum is in the process of re-establishment. In 1953 weekly cinematograph exhibitions were given in the dance hall by a private operator.

Chapter 8 : Legislation

The Revised Edition of the Laws, containing the Laws operative on 31st December, 1950, was brought into force on 12th March, 1953.

Apart from the Old Age Pensions Ordinance no major legislation was introduced during the period under review.

Chapter 9 : Justice, Police and Prisons

The judicial system of the Colony is administered by a Supreme Court, with the Governor acting as Judge, and a Magistrate's Court in Stanley. The post of Magistrate is at present held by the Colonial Secretary. The Colony retains the part-time services in England of a retired Colonial Judge as Legal Adviser.

A number of farm managers are Justices of the Peace and as such have power to deal with minor offences.

Crime is mainly confined to petty theft, damage to property, and offences against the licensing laws.

The following are statistics of cases heard in Stanley during 1951, 1952 and 1953 :

	1951	1952	1953
Licensing Offences	18	39	36
Road Traffic Offences	1	16	—
Damage	3	—	—
Offences against Police	3	—	—
Attempted Suicide	1	—	—
Idle and Disorderly Person	1	—	—
Breach of Peace	2	—	—
Neglect of young child	1	—	—
Assaults	—	6	8
Larceny, Breaking and Entry	—	5	5
Prostitution	—	1	—
Malicious Damage	—	3	1
Taking forbidden articles into Prison	—	2	—
Sex offence	—	1	—
Cruelty to Animals	—	1	—
Maintenance	—	1	2
Debt	—	3	2
Eviction	—	1	—
Threats, Breach of Peace, Breach of Recognisance	—	3	3
Dog offences	—	—	2
Custody of child	—	—	1

The Police Force consists of a Chief Constable, a sergeant and five constables.

The Chief Constable also acts as Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, Gaoler, Sanitary Inspector and Registrar of Aliens.

Chapter 10 : Public Utilities and Public Works

ELECTRICITY

A 24-hour supply is available in Stanley. The supply voltage is 230 A.C. for lighting, heating and small power and 400 A.C. for large power. The new diesel electric power station, opened on 27th January, 1951, has a maximum output of 550 kilowatts. Distribution is overhead at 3.3 kv. and 230 to 400 volts. The system is 3-phase 4-wire.

There are 460 consumers in Stanley who pay a tariff at their option of 9*d.* per unit, or 3*d.* per unit plus £1 per quarter.

In the Camp most of the managers' houses have their own generators and some settlements are supplied with electricity. Many of the shepherds' houses have self-installed lighting systems with wind-chargers to recharge their batteries.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply in Stanley is barely adequate for the needs of the town and supplies are brought by pipe-line from a distance of about three miles. In times of drought the tanks must be filled by pump action from Moody Stream. Storage is available for some 335,000 gallons, and many householders use rain-water tanks as reserves. A qualified water engineer who conducted a survey at the end of 1952 has drawn up plans for an increased and purified supply system.

In Camp use is made of fresh-water springs, rain-water tanks and wells with hand drawn or windmill pumped supplies.

PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department controls all the public services. The staff, under the Superintendent of Works, is 65 in number, of whom nine are artisans from the United Kingdom, seven are local tradesmen and the remaining 49 are locally employed unskilled labourers.

The principal activities of the Department during 1952 and 1953 were the completion of the new Churchill Wing of the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, the construction of a new house for the Secretary of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, work on the new infants' school, repair and maintenance of Government property, extension and modification of the Government Wireless Station, completion of the Town Hall and work on its surroundings, the redecking and strengthening of the Government Jetty, construction of a new wireless station at Fox Bay and the installation of a drainage system in and modifications to the seaplane hangar.

The efficiency of the carpenters' shop has been increased by the installation of a new Universal Woodworking Machine.

The Superintendent was also responsible for the cutting of some 15,000 cubic yards of peat. In December, 1953, a peat-cutting machine was imported and preliminary tests have proved very successful.

Chapter 11 : Communications

SHIPPING

The Falkland Islands Company's 855 ton vessel *Fitzroy* links Stanley with the outside world. She averages twelve journeys annually to Montevideo carrying freight, mail and passengers. The Company also charters vessels to carry extra cargoes ; in 1952 the Company chartered three and in 1953 four vessels. The R.R.S. *John Biscoe* provides occasional communications between Stanley, South Georgia and the rest of the Dependencies, and periodic visits are paid to the Colony and Dependencies by ships of the Royal Navy.

The following table shows the number of vessels which entered and left Stanley and the net tonnage of cargo cleared to 31st December, 1953.

	1951	1952	1953
Number of ships which entered Stanley	15	20	21
Number of ships which left Stanley	15	18	20
Net tonnage in	6,379	8,004	18,010
Net tonnage out	6,290	5,257	17,930

These figures consist mainly of repeated entries of the s.s. *Fitzroy* and the charter vessels. The *Ripplingham Grange* which carried the Islands' first export of frozen mutton entered at Ajax Bay in 1953.

AIR SERVICE

An Air Service, operated by Government, was started in 1948 to improve communications between the capital and the settlements and to facilitate the treatment of sick cases.

The Norseman seaplane has been replaced by a de Havilland Beaver seaplane and two Auster seaplanes are also maintained. The original Auster landplane is no longer in commission.

ROADS

There are 12 miles of road in Stanley, and in the Camp there are some stretches of motorable track suitable for the jeep or tracked-type of vehicles. The Stanley roads are in a very poor state of repair due to a labour shortage and the prior claim of more essential works.

The following table shows the number of vehicles licensed in 1952 and 1953 for whole or part of the year :

	1952	1953
Lorries	25	24
Cars	66	69
Vans	16	23
Motor-cycles	40	38

A telephone system is maintained in Stanley by Government for general as well as official use and there are over 320 subscribers. Most of the sheep-stations on the East Falkland have their own lines connected to the Stanley system ; on the West Falkland the telephones converge on Fox Bay where there is a Government wireless station for inter-island traffic.

Some of the farms have private radio transmitters for local use, but these have been largely superseded by radio-telephony sets provided and installed by the Government.

The Posts and Telegraphs Department handles approximately 12 mails annually from overseas, each averaging 180 bags. An average of 40 inter-island mails also pass through the Post Office. Inter-island airmail is controlled by prevailing weather conditions and averages six per month.

Telegrams for inland and overseas are accepted at the Post Office. In 1953 the number of telegrams received exceeded 13,000 and the number sent was over 28,000.

A commercial wireless telegraphy station operates daily from 9 a.m. until 11 p.m. and employs seven operators and two learners.

Two electricians are employed on servicing the telephone, broadcasting and re-diffusion services.

Chapter 12 : Press, Broadcasting and Films

PRESS

No newspapers or periodicals are published in the Colony other than the official *Gazette*. A weekly news-letter is however broadcast to Stanley, the Camp and the Dependencies.

BROADCASTING

The Falkland Islands hold the honour of having established the first colonial broadcasting service. In the early part of 1929 a wired broadcasting system was established in Stanley ; the service covered not only the town but also many parts of East Falkland, the programme being carried to outlying farms by the normal telephone lines. Although a number of earlier experiments were made, wireless broadcasting from a radio transmitter did not become a regular feature until 1942. The two methods, operated jointly, are now a well-established service in the Islands.

The broadcasting service is controlled by a voluntary committee under a director. The committee was strengthened in 1953 by the appointment of a salaried secretary.

At least two hours broadcasting are now undertaken on every evening in the week and four part-time announcers are employed. B.B.C. news bulletins, sports results and "Radio Newsreel" are broad-

cast regularly and extensive use is made of the B.B.C. Transcription Service. The acquisition of a tape recording machine in 1953 has facilitated the production of local features.

On the technical side, the United Kingdom General Post Office undertook the design of a completely new re-diffusion system for Stanley which includes modern studio equipment. The Colony has acquired a Marconi 5-kw. medium-wave broadcasting transmitter purchased with a grant of £10,000 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. Plans have been approved for the renovation of the broadcasting studio and control room and it is expected that all new installations will be operating fully by the middle of 1954.

In 1953 360 wireless receiving licences were issued and 261 wired broadcasting subscriptions were paid.

FILMS

A film library controlled by the Superintendent of Education was established by Government in 1953. Films are obtained from J. Arthur Rank Distributors Limited and the Central Office of Information and hired out on a non-profit basis to the various farm settlements owning 16 mm. projectors and to Mr. A. L. Hardy, a local business man, who operates the cinema in the Town Hall. They are also shown to the schoolchildren on the Education Department's projector.

Chapter 13: Local Forces

The Falkland Islands Volunteer Corps was first formed in 1892. The Force stood down in 1919 and was reconstituted in 1920 as the Falkland Islands Defence Force.

Recruitment, which is voluntary, is steady and the Company remains at the required strength.

Chapter 14: General

THE D.S.I.R. IONOSPHERIC OBSERVATORY

At the end of the war responsibility for the running of ionospheric observatories in British colonial territories was transferred from the Admiralty to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and in 1947 an observatory, maintained entirely by this Department, was re-established at Stanley.

The staff of two is drawn from the Department's Radio Research Station in England.

The major part of the work of the observatory consists in the measurement, with the aid of automatic recording apparatus, of the characteristics of the ionosphere immediately overhead and the transmission of results to the Radio Research Station at Slough, England.

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

Despite the cold weather and strong gales prevailing on 2nd June, 1953, the carefully planned programme was followed.

At 8 a.m. a Royal Salute of 101 guns was fired, 50 from a shore battery and 51 from a visiting warship.

At 10.30 a.m. the Governor inspected a parade of detachments of the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the Falkland Islands Defence Force and the Boys' Brigade. After the parade services were held in all the churches.

The Governor then held a large reception at Government House where the health of Her Majesty the Queen was drunk. Guests included members of the Executive and Legislative Councils and Heads of Departments.

From mid-day onwards there were almost continuous relays of B.B.C. programmes and the broadcast of Her Majesty was heard clearly. The Governor later broadcast to the Colony.

During the afternoon prizes were awarded for the best decorated house and business premises in Stanley.

Street lighting was augmented by additional lights in patriotic colours affixed to each lamp post.

After dark a large bonfire was lighted by the youngest member of the Boys' Brigade, and as the flames died the sky was illuminated by a magnificent display of fireworks.

The Coronation Ball commenced at 9 p.m. and over 700 people were present. The Governor proposed a loyal toast to Her Majesty the Queen which was drunk by all present.

The children's Fancy Dress Party held on 3rd June attracted a large crowd. In the evening a supper was held for all people over the age of 64. After supper they were the guests of the Boys' Brigade who gave a gymnastic display in the Town Hall.

Every child in the Colony received two souvenirs of the occasion. Celebrations also took place at Camp stations.

PART II

Chapter 1 : Geography and Climate

THE Falkland Islands lie in the South Atlantic Ocean between 51° and $52\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ South and 57° and 62° West and are about 300 miles east and slightly to the north of the Straits of Magellan. There are two main islands, the East and West Falkland, divided by the Falkland Sound, running approximately north-east and south-west, and about 200 smaller islands around them within a space of 130 by 80 miles. The area, computed from the Admiralty chart, is as follows :

	<i>Square miles</i>
East Falkland and adjacent Islands . . .	2,580
West Falkland and adjacent Islands . . .	2,038
	<hr/> 4,618

The islands have a very deeply indented coastline and possess many excellent harbours and anchorages. The surface is hilly attaining its maximum elevation of 2,315 feet in Mount Adam on the West Falkland. There are no navigable rivers. The entire country is covered with moorland "white grass" (*Cortaderia hilosa*) predominating, although there are large areas of "diddle-dee" (*empetrum*). There are numerous outcrops of rocks and here and there peculiar "rivers" of angular boulders, known locally as "stone runs", the origin of which is debatable. Apart from Stanley, where practically every house has a garden, there is no cultivation except in the immediate vicinity of the farm settlements and shepherds' houses, where vegetables, fruit bushes and in some places oats and grass for hay are grown. The soil is mainly peat, but sandy areas occur. In general appearance the Falklands are bleak and inhospitable to a degree but they can nevertheless look attractive in fine weather and the sunsets are often magnificent.

Trees exist only where they have been planted but there are areas of wild fuchsia (*Chiloitrichum diffusum*) and, on the West Falkland only, "Box" (*veronica elliptica*) is indigenous. Most of the islands and small coastal areas are clothed luxuriantly in tussock grass (*poa flabellata*) which is excellent food for stock and which has kept more than one shipwrecked sailor alive.

The capital, Stanley, is situated on a sharply rising hillside forming the southern slopes of a harbour entered from Port William, on the east of the group. It has about 1,200 inhabitants. Smaller settlements have been established at headquarters of the various sheep stations into which the Colony is divided. Of these the most important is Darwin, the headquarters of the Falkland Islands Company's farms, with a population of about 100. The entire territory outside Stanley is known locally as the "Camp" (Spanish : Campo—countryside).

The climate of the Falklands is often deplored. It is cool and windy, with an average annual temperature of 42°F . The islands are generally colder than any part of the British Isles, though temperatures

below 20°F. are uncommon, even in mid-winter, because of the maritime exposure. For the same reason summer temperatures seldom exceed 70°F. Warm spells with light winds are infrequent and, when they do occur, are of brief duration. The islands are exposed to persistent strong winds which accompany fair weather as often as foul. The average wind speed throughout the year is 15 knots and gales (winds whose mean speed is greater than 33 knots) develop for at least short periods almost one day in five, with a tendency to be more frequent in summer. Thus the islands are windier than almost any part of the British Isles except a few exposed coastal areas in the north and west. Precipitation, which is generally light or moderate in intensity, is fairly evenly spread throughout the year but the summers are characterised by fair and very dry spells when north-west winds reach the area after the passage over the Andes. The average rainfall is about 28 inches per year which is rather more than London. The aggregate of bright sunshine, however, is almost exactly the same and averages four hours per day over the year.

Chapter 2 : History

The honour of first sighting the Falklands is thought to belong to Captain John Davies, who observed the group from his ship *Desire* in 1592. He sailed from Plymouth in an expedition commanded by Admiral Cavendish with the Philippines and the Coast of China, via Cape Horn, as their destination.

John Jane, the historian of the voyage described the discovery of the islands as follows :

“ The Ninth (Aug. 1592) wee had a sore storme, so that wee were constrained to hull, for our sailes were not to indure any force. The 14 wee were driven in among certaine isles never before discovered by any knowen relation, lying fiftie leagues or better from the shoare East and Northerly from the Streights ; in which place unlesse it had pleased God of his wonderfull mercie to have ceased the winde, wee must of necessitie have perished. But the winde shifting to the East wee directed our course for the Streights, and the 18th August wee fell with the Cape (Virgin) in a very thick fogge ; and the same night wee ankered ten leagues within the Cape.”

These isles were the Falkland Islands.

Two years later Sir Richard Hawkins reports having seen them, and called them “Hawkin’s Maidenland” after Queen Elizabeth, and a Dutchman, Sebald Van Weerdt, appears to have visited some of the outlying islands, thought to be the Jasons, on the north-west coast in 1598. They were long named the Sebaldine Islands and are so shown on a map hanging in the Secretariat at Stanley, bearing a date “about 1790”.

The Falklands were so named by Captain Strong after Viscount Falkland, Treasurer of the Navy in 1690. He sailed in the *Welfare* between the West and East Falkland and called the passage Falkland Sound. But it does not appear that this name was applied to the group as a whole before 1745.



R.R.S. JOHN BISCOE



SURVEYORS FIXING POSITION WITH SUN-SIGHT AND TIME
SIGNAL, SIGNY ISLAND, SOUTH ORKNEY ISLANDS



ADELIE PENGUIN ROOKERY AT GOURLAY PENINSULA,
SIGNY ISLAND, SOUTH ORKNEY ISLANDS



LOOKING NORTH TO LEMAIRE CHANNEL FROM
GALINDEZ ISLAND, ARGENTINE ISLANDS



THE CHURCHILL WING OF THE KING EDWARD VII
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, STANLEY



AERIAL VIEW OF GOOSE GREEN SETTLEMENT, EAST
F A L K L A N D



THE NEW HARBOUR DEPARTMENT OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE
ON THE GOVERNMENT JETTY, STANLEY



THE BEAVER AIRCRAFT IN PORT STANLEY

To historians the islands are known also as "Les Malouines" after Viscomte de Bougainville who sailed from the Brittany port of St. Malo ; the Spanish variant is used on the mainland of South America "Las Islas Malvinas".

The recorded history of the islands begins in 1764 when a settlement was established by de Bougainville. Setting sail from St. Malo on 15th September, 1763, he called at Montevideo—as is still the custom—where he took on board everything that was necessary to establish a settlement, including cows, calves, goats, sheep, pigs and horses. The Falklands were reached on the 31st January, 1764. Finding no good anchorage at what is known as West Falkland the expedition sailed round to East Falkland and entered Berkeley Sound. The site for the new settlement was selected on 17th March and a fort, St. Louis, was erected together with several huts. On 5th April formal possession in the name of King Louis XV was taken of all the islands under the name of "Les Malouines". Traces of this colony may still be seen at the western extremity of Berkeley Sound.

In the light of history it seems a strange coincidence that the Admiralty should have despatched to the Falklands about the same time a Captain John Byron ("Foul-weather Jack") with orders to seek some suitable place for use as a base. He made his landfall at Saunders Island and taking possession of this and all the neighbouring islands in the name of King George III, named the settlement and harbour Port Egmont after the Earl of Egmont, then First Lord of the Admiralty.

On his departure he left Captain MacBride in charge and the latter while circumnavigating the islands was surprised to discover the French settlement at Port Louis less than 100 miles from his own base. He warned the French to remove themselves from the territory belonging to the English Crown and himself went to England to report his discovery. The Government thereupon decided to establish a settlement at Port Egmont and during 1776 both countries maintained settlements in the islands. For the next two years much bad feeling was engendered among the three great Powers of the period, France, Spain and England. Spain had for long regarded the South Atlantic as her own particular sphere of interest and was determined to resist any attempts by either France or Britain to appropriate the islands. After long, and very angry correspondence, the French King consented to withdraw his subjects and it was duly done in 1767 on payment of a sum said to have amounted to £24,000. The Spaniards, having taken possession changed the name of the settlement to Soledad, and left a garrison there under authority of the Imperial Governor at Buenos Aires. Of this episode, de Bougainville wrote :

"I delivered our settlement to the Spaniards who took over possession of it by planting the Spanish colours which were saluted at sunrising and sunset, from the shore and from the ships. I read King Louis' letter to the French inhabitants of this infant colony by which His Majesty permits their remaining under the Government of His Most Catholic Majesty. Some families profited of the permission ; the rest, with the garrison embarked on board the Spanish frigates."

Endeavours to induce the British to withdraw were more protracted and eventually orders were sent for their expulsion by force. On 4th June, 1770, a Spanish frigate entered Port Egmont and two days later four more Spanish ships anchored opposite the settlement. The one British vessel was a sloop-of-war the *Favourite* and the only fortifications a block-house and a mud battery mounting four pounders. The British captain, playing for time, wrote to the Spanish commodore, requesting him to depart as soon as he had obtained "necessary refreshments". In a brief reply the Spaniard stated that he had come with a very large force, comprising 1,400 men, besides the crews of his vessels and an ample supply of ammunition and artillery, and his orders were to expel the British occupants. The latter then had no other course but to capitulate, the Spanish troops coming ashore on 10th June, 1770. The British settlers were embarked on board the *Favourite* and sailed on 14th July, reaching England on 24th September.

The Spanish action brought the two countries to the verge of war, but on 16th September, 1771, after protracted negotiations, Port Egmont was restored to Britain. However, the settlement was short-lived for the islands were abandoned by the British in 1774; before they left, a plaque was erected on a block-house with the following inscription :

"BE IT KNOWN TO ALL NATIONS. That Falkland Islands with this Fort, the Stonehouse, Wharfs and Harbours, Bays and Creeks thereunto belonging are the Sole Right and Property of His Most Sacred Majesty, George the Third, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc. In witness whereof this plate is set up, and His Britannic Majesty's colours left flying as a mark of possession.

by S. W. Clayton
Commanding Officer at Falkland Islands
A.D. 1774."

While Port Egmont remained deserted the Spaniards maintained their settlement of Soledad until they too withdrew in the first quarter of the nineteenth century; the exact date is still uncertain. Apart from the sealing and other vessels which frequently took refuge in the natural harbours the Falklands were without permanent occupants for a number of years.

Argentine interests in the Falklands began in 1824 with the endeavours of Louis Vernet to revive the settlement at Port Louis (or Soledad). Vernet, by origin a German from Hamburg who had long resided in America, had removed to Buenos Aires. Under authority of the Republic of Buenos Aires he finally took possession of Soledad in August, 1829. British protests followed this action, although the situation remained quiet until 1831. Vernet then seized three United States vessels, a rash action which eventually led to the American warship *Lexington* destroying the small fort at Soledad and retaking the vessels which had been seized.

Argentine claims to the islands persisted, but the British Government re-asserted its sovereignty in 1832 by sending out His Majesty's ship *Clio* under command of Captain Onslow. On reaching Port Louis he found 25 Argentine soldiers, and a schooner flying the Argen-

tine colours. The Argentine commander was acquainted with the object of the mission and given orders to quit ; while consenting to embark his soldiers he kept the Argentine flag flying whereupon Captain Onslow landed, hoisted the British flag, and sent an officer to haul down the foreign flag which was delivered on board the Argentine ship. On leaving Port Louis in 1833 Captain Onslow entrusted William Dickson (Vernet's storekeeper) with the care of the settlement leaving him with instructions that the British flag be hoisted when any vessels anchored, and on all holidays.

The year of establishment of the Colony is marked with a savage crime which will cause less surprise if the wild nature of the settlers remaining at Port Louis is called to mind—sealers and whalers of various nationalities, Indian convicts and gauchos from South America and adventurers generally disposed to resent the mere existence of authority. On 26th August, 1833, without warning and, so far as is known, for no tangible cause, Matthew Brisbane (Vernet's agent) and William Dickson were brutally done to death by three gauchos and six Indians assisted by some deserters from vessels who supplied the firearms. Brisbane lies buried in the cemetery there, and his grave, put in order by Governor Allardyce many years after and restored again by Sir James O'Grady in 1933 is now cared for and honoured.

When the news of the crime became known Lieutenant Henry Smith, R.N. was sent to the Colony as Governor and was succeeded as such by other naval officers until a civil administration was formed under Lieutenant R. C. Moody, R.E. in 1842. Governor Moody laid out a township which he named Anson and then removed in 1844 to Stanley, the present capital.

After difficult times in the beginning further settlers and fresh capital were gradually attracted by the possibilities of the new Colony and in 1846 that part of the East Falkland Islands lying south of the isthmus at Darwin was conceded by sale to Samuel Lafone of Montevideo ; Lafone, however did not long continue to farm the property on his own account and in 1851 transferred it to the Falkland Islands Company which was incorporated by charter that same year. The Falkland Islands Company besides owning Lafonia has extensive tracts of land in the northern half on the East Falkland Island and also in the West Falkland Island and carries on business as shipping agents and general merchants in Stanley.

In 1849 a small garrison composed of sappers, which had been maintained in the Colony, was replaced in turn by a garrison of Marines, 35 in number and all married. About this time the South American Missionary Society founded a training settlement for Indians from Tierra del Fuego on Keppel Island. The settlement did not succeed and the experiment had to be abandoned. Bishop Stirling, who was consecrated the first Bishop of the Falkland Islands in 1869, came out to Keppel Island as superintendent of the settlement in 1862.

In February, 1871, the Duke of Edinburgh visited the islands and in January, 1881, Prince (later King) George entered Port William together with his brother Albert Victor on board H.M.S. *Bacchante*,

but was prevented from landing by the receipt of sudden orders to proceed to the Cape of Good Hope.

The early industry of the Colony was exploitation, mainly for their hides, of wild cattle running freely over the East Falkland Island. These wild cattle were descendants of the cattle introduced by de Bougainville and of later importations during the Spanish occupation; they were considered the property of the Crown and their slaughter was subject to licences issued by the Governor. Sheep farming was attempted first by the brothers Whittington on East Falkland where, by the year 1860, a considerable number of sheep was being run, and shortly afterwards a start was made on the West Falkland. Between 1870 and 1880 a definite change over from cattle to sheep took place and subsequently the wild cattle were killed off by degrees and have now become almost extinct.

The Colony enjoyed a steady prosperity from the proceeds of its wool, but few landmarks of positive progress stand out other than that in 1885 the Colony became entirely self-supporting and that in 1912 a wireless station was opened. Indeed, the Falkland Islands were little remembered until 8th December, 1914, when they sprang into fame as the scene of Sturdee's brilliant victory over Graf von Spee. Not long before they had bidden farewell to Cradock on the eve of Coronel. The eighth of December has been adopted in the Colony as a national day and is annually celebrated by a religious service and by a public holiday.

A memorial commemorating this victory was unveiled on 26th February, 1927.

When war was declared in 1939 the Falkland Islands Defence Force was embodied in order to man the previously chosen outposts and gunsites, and training of the infantry company was greatly intensified. At the same time the Colony's value as a naval base became obvious as a result of the activity in the South Atlantic. One notable local event was the return of the British cruisers after the Battle of the River Plate to land the wounded who were cared for in the local hospital for several weeks. At the beginning of 1940 there were at one time as many as six cruisers in Stanley Harbour and its approaches, but after the disappearance of German raiders, naval activity diminished greatly. The area to the south of the River Plate was devoid of shipping and, perhaps, too remote for submarine warfare.

In 1942, following the outbreak of war with Japan, a garrison of Imperial troops arrived. It comprised the 11th Battalion, the West Yorkshire (the Prince of Wales' Own) Regiment, the 359th A.A. Battery, R.A., and parties of the Auxiliary Corps, in all some 2,000 officers and men. The sending of such a force was an indication of the strategic importance of the Colony. The manpower shortage continued because batteries and outposts manned by the local force had to be kept at full strength.

Until a permanent camp of Nissen hutting was constructed the 2,000 troops were billeted in the town and the householders of Stanley, despite all inconveniences including the evacuation of schoolchildren

to the Camp, displayed that hospitality which is a characteristic of the Falkland Islands. The Force left at the beginning of 1944 and was greatly missed ; it was succeeded by a much smaller body, about 200 men, which was responsible for the maintenance and eventually the dismantling of the Camp, and it was withdrawn in 1945.

Unemployment in the Colony disappeared with the calling-up of men for the Falkland Islands Defence Force and this mobilisation embarrassed civil affairs in the early days. Military and civil manpower needs were a matter for frequent adjustment throughout the war, and although neither was perhaps fully satisfied, a state of fair equilibrium was reached at least as regards essential activities. The drift of men into Stanley which had been going on for some years was aggravated in the early days of the war and has had a marked and permanent effect in a labour shortage on the farms.

Stanley Town Hall was accidentally burned to the ground in 1944. Its fine public hall played a very important part in social life, so that the loss of it was a blow to the whole community. The building contained also the Public Library, the Museum and certain Government offices. A new Town Hall was opened in 1950.

The roads in Stanley deteriorated on account of heavy military traffic, for which they were not designed, and their reconstruction will be a long and expensive task.

During the war the Colony and Dependencies made gifts of over £70,000 to the United Kingdom as a war contribution, including some £20,000 for war charities. Ten Spitfires were purchased with £50,000 of this total, which was voted by the Legislative Council in 1940, and these aircraft flew into action bearing the name "Falkland Islands". Despite limited manpower, over 150 of the Colony's young men and women served in the Armed Forces, Merchant Navy, Nursing Services and the Land Army in the United Kingdom. After the war some of them elected to stay there.

Chapter 3 : Administration

At the head of the Government is the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who is advised by an Executive Council composed of four official and three unofficial members. In December, 1951, the constitution was amended so that the number of nominated official members of the Legislative Council was reduced from three to two giving, for the first time, a majority to the unofficial members of the Council. The re-constituted Legislative Council met in 1952 and comprised the three senior officials of the Administration (the Colonial Secretary, the Senior Medical Officer and the Agricultural Officer), four elected members (two representing Stanley and one each the East and West Falklands), two nominated official members, and two nominated unofficial members.

Local government is confined to Stanley where there is a Town Council consisting of six elected members and three members nominated by the Governor ; the members of the Council elect one of their members annually as chairman.

Chapter 4 : Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are used.

Chapter 5 : Reading List

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(B) *THE DEPENDENCIES*

PART I

Chapter 1 : Population

THE population of South Georgia comprises the workers at the whaling factory and a few Government servants at Grytviken (King Edward Cove) in Cumberland Bay. The total population in 1952 was 1,477 of whom 1,469 were males, 6 females and 2 children. In 1953 the total population was 1,449 of whom 1,441 were males, 6 females and 2 children. Two deaths were registered in 1952 and 6 in 1953. There were neither marriages nor births. The population fluctuates with the whaling season ; in the winter the total declines to rather less than half.

Chapter 2 : Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

OCCUPATIONS

Whaling and, to a small extent, sealing—with the necessary auxiliaries of repair shops—are the only occupations in South Georgia. Labour is recruited from overseas, mainly Norway and the United Kingdom, on special terms adopted by the whole whaling industry. The whaling season is from October to April and the men work about 60 hours a week. During the remainder of the year the average number of working hours is 46. Sealing operations are conducted only from Grytviken.

WAGES AND COST OF LIVING

A system of bonuses on production is employed and, besides wages and bonuses, all hands are provided with quarters, light and food, which although plain is good and plentiful. All foodstuffs are supplied by the companies, and no cost-of-living bonus is awarded. There are no shops or private trade, but each station has a "slop chest" where clothing, tobacco, etc. may be purchased.

Chapter 3 : Public Finance and Taxation

Revenue for 1952–53, including a grant of £47,000 from Her Majesty's Government towards the cost of the Survey, amounted to £207,741 and expenditure was £210,218. The revised estimates for 1953–54 £91,989, £289,210 and £308,490 respectively.

The revenue and expenditure figures since 1st January, 1947, are as follows :

	Revenue £	Expenditure £
1947	38,899	64,212
1948	225,807	92,306
1949	218,917	200,775
1950 (6 months)*	75,388	89,685
1950-51	195,137	200,697
1951-52	155,697	187,458
1952-53	207,741	210,218

* Financial year altered to end on 30th June.

The general revenue balance at 30th June, 1953, was £60,470 and on the same date the reserve fund amounted to £109,369.

The main heads of taxation are customs and income tax (for details see under the Colony). Revenue received during 1952-53 : Import duties £12,959, Export duties £77,303, Income Tax £52,631.

Chapter 4 : Banking and Currency

There are no banks but facilities are provided by the Administration for deposits in the Government Savings Bank and for remitting funds abroad.

Legal tender consists of Falkland Islands Government currency notes of £5, £1 and 10s. denominations and United Kingdom coinage.

Chapter 5 : Commerce

Except for a certain amount of whale meat and fish, all the Dependencies requirements of foodstuffs are imported.

The value of imports and exports for the years 1951, 1952 and 1953 was :

IMPORTS

(Including imports from the High Seas (pelagic whaling) for re-export)

	1951 £	1952 £	1953 £
Raw Materials	1,841,088	1,574,102	1,374,618
Mainly manufactured	773,376	666,948	697,778
Food, drink and tobacco	204,134	165,032	159,252
Miscellaneous	2,616	329	56
	<hr/> £2,821,214	<hr/> £2,406,411	<hr/> £2,231,704

Total imports from the High Seas were £657,420 in 1951, £461,800 in 1952 and 634,920 in 1953.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SOURCES OF IMPORTS

Percentages, including imports from the High Seas for re-export

	1951	1952	1953
Foreign countries . . .	47.82	57.77	44.47
British Commonwealth . .	28.88	23.04	27.07
High Seas	23.30	19.19	28.46

PRINCIPAL SUPPLYING COUNTRIES

	1951 £	1952 £	1953 £
United Kingdom	814,666	554,438	604,342
Argentina	47,517	159,231	179,367
Dutch West Indies . . .	842,458	942,640	389,449
Norway	183,291	260,049	238,003
Spain	92,266	16	100
U.S.A.	95	—	—
Uruguay	115,340	6,333	9,080
Venezuela	40,976	—	168,069
High Seas	657,420	461,800	634,920

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS AND SOURCES OF SUPPLY, 1951-53

Principal Supplying Countries

1951

£

Coal, Coke, Fuel and Lubricating Oil	1,115,155	Dutch West Indies	£838,982	
Food, Drink and Tobacco	204,134	U.K.	£115,728, Norway	£41,078
Bags and Bagging	113,911	U.K.	£103,531	
Hardware	282,513	U.K.	£236,507, Norway	£35,397
Canvas and Rope	87,887	U.K.	£76,682	
Paints and Oils	41,993	U.K.	£41,082	

1952

£

Coal, Coke, Fuel and Lubricating Oil	1,050,445	Dutch West Indies	£928,700
Food, Drink and Tobacco	165,032	U.K.	£88,675, Norway £48,691
Bags and Bagging	5,887	U.K.	£4,717
Hardware	368,336	U.K.	£197,108, Norway £157,667
Canvas and Rope	28,052	U.K.	£15,070
Paints and Oils	6,767	U.K.	£2,472

1953

£

Coal, Coke, Fuel and Lubricating Oil	689,805	Dutch West Indies	£389,449, Argentine	£132,951
Food, Drink and Tobacco	159,252	U.K.	£76,391, Norway	£48,689
Bags and Bagging	37,094	U.K.	£23,359	
Hardware	517,118	U.K.	£407,464, Norway	£95,944
Canvas and Rope	49,705	U.K.	£33,984	
Paints and Oils	13,842	U.K.	£8,883	

FALKLAND ISLANDS

TOTAL EXPORTS

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
	£	£	£	£	£
Whale Oil .	2,296,293	1,925,112	2,422,746	1,958,059	1,504,550
Seal Oil .	189,726	—	186,915	203,680	37,100
Whale Meat & Bone Meal	268,117	387,423	234,288	359,660	295,933
Other Whale Products .	128,024	—	31,648	168,260	135,932
Other Articles .	14,864	3,097	282	318	475
Exports .	2,897,024	2,315,632	2,875,879	2,689,977	1,973,990
Re-exports .	707,460	4,260,714	225,561	999,188	840,497
Total Exports .	£3,604,484	6,576,346	3,101,440	3,689,165	2,814,487

DOMESTIC EXPORTS

		1951	1952	1953
Whale Oil	barrels	150,537	146,259	132,341
Whale Meat and Bone Meal	lb.	20,689,640	28,249,599	19,924,356
Seal Oil	barrels	13,906	20,368	3,710
Solubles	lb.	1,752,080	12,572,336	12,098,464
Other Whale Products	lb.	—	400,344	10,775

RE-EXPORTS

		1951	1952	1953
Whale Oil	barrels	4,986	66,891	1,553

TOTAL EXPORTS

Principal Destinations

		1951	1952	1953
		£	£	£
United Kingdom . . .		2,875,896	3,429,753	2,265,079
Argentina		1,858	5,040	41,330
Norway		407	3,550	332,738
Uruguay		6,145	550	300
High Seas		217,134	251,272	175,040

TOTAL EXPORTS

Distribution by Percentages

		1951	1952	1953
British Commonwealth . . .		92.73	92.94	80.48
Foreign Countries27	0.25	13.31
High Seas		7.00	6.81	6.21

Chapter 6 : Production

Whaling and sealing are the only industries in the Dependencies and the by-products of the whale, such as meat meal and guano, are the sole products. The whaling season lasts for six months, from October until April ; sealing takes place from September to the end of October and from early March to early April. For the primary purpose of assisting whaling operations, the Government has, since January, 1950, maintained a meteorological station in South Georgia, and in 1953 there were six other stations in various parts of the Dependencies manned by personnel of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey.

W H A L I N G

There are three whaling stations all of which are in South Georgia, and a ship repair base with a dry dock at Stromness. The average price of first grade whale oil in 1951 was £110, and in 1952 was £90.

In the 1951-52 season 2,270 whales were killed giving 119,905 barrels of oil valued at £1,399,880. Bags of meat meal totalled 103,233 worth £359,660.

The following table shows the catch and production of whales for the past five seasons :

		<i>Number of Whales</i>	<i>Oil (Barrels)</i>	<i>Bone Meal (Bags)</i>
1947-48	. .	2,949	163,651	137,173
1948-49	. .	2,941	172,290	141,021
1949-50	. .	3,356	148,166	144,346
1950-51	. .	2,817	152,001	126,091
1952-53	. .	2,270	119,905	103,233

S E A L I N G

This is confined to the surplus males of the herd of elephant seals (*Mirounga leonina*) which, with the wholehearted co-operation of the sealers, has been carefully guarded by the Administration, and, in accordance with a report submitted by the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey biologist, the annual catch has been restricted to 6,000 for a five-year period starting in 1952. Sealing is carried out under licence, and the coasts of South Georgia are divided into four regions of which only three are worked annually so that each division is rested one year in four. The catches for the last five seasons have been :

		<i>Seals</i>	<i>Oil (Barrels)</i>	<i>Average per Seal (Barrels)</i>
1949	. .	6,876	13,358	1.942
1950	. .	6,951	13,035	1.088
1951	. .	7,877	14,608	1.855
1952	. .	6,000	10,807	1.801
1953	. .	6,000	11,475	1.912

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

There were two children in South Georgia during 1952 and 1953 ; there are no educational facilities, but books and materials may be obtained from the Education Department.

HEALTH

Apart from the common cold introduced by visiting ships the Dependencies are remarkably free from sickness. The accident rate among whaling crews is high.

The whaling companies employ their own doctors, and each has a sick-bay. The Government contributes a share of the salary of the Medical Officer at Grytviken. A dentist appointed and paid by Government and maintained by the companies was recruited at the end of 1953.

HOUSING

All Government officials are well housed and the accommodation provided by the whaling companies for the men working on the stations is adequate.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Each of the whaling companies has its own cinema ; films are also sent to the Administrative Officer from the Central Film Library. Football is the most popular sport in summer and ski-ing in winter.

Chapter 8 : Justice, Police and Prisons

The Administrative Officer is also the Magistrate. He sits at Grytviken in the first instance, and the Supreme Court in Stanley is common to all the Dependencies. One police constable is stationed at South Georgia.

The following table enumerates the charges dealt with in South Georgia in 1953.

	1953
Found in possession of a still	2
Larceny	4
Evasion of Duty on Spirits	6

Chapter 9: Public Utilities

There are no public utilities. The whaling stations and the Government quarters have their own water and electricity supplies.

Chapter 10 : Communications and Transport

There is no regular sea communication between South Georgia and Stanley, but during the whaling season the opportunity occurs for the passage of mails direct between Europe and the River Plate and South Georgia. Ships of the pelagic fleet call at South Georgia on their way to the whaling grounds in November and again on their return journey in March.

South Georgia is visited at least twice a year by the R.R.S. *John Biscoe* for refuelling in the course of her annual relief tours of the Dependencies.

Three floating docks are maintained by the whaling companies at South Georgia, one at Grytviken and two at Stromness Harbour. A dry dock has been constructed at Stromness which is capable of taking vessels up to 1,000 tons. The floating dock at Grytviken is 133 feet long and 34 feet broad ; it has a lifting capacity of 600 tons. It will house vessels up to 140 feet in length and 15 feet 6 inches draught. The other dock at Stromness is 150 feet long and 34 feet wide ; this will accommodate vessels up to 160 feet in length and 15 feet in draught.

There are two ports of entry in the Dependencies, one at Grytviken, South Georgia, and the other at Port Foster, Deception Island, in the South Shetlands.

The following ships entered at South Georgia in 1952 and 1953 :

<i>Nationality</i>	1952		1953	
	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Tonnage</i>	<i>Vessels</i>	<i>Tonnage</i>
British	62	139,887	51	112,833
Foreign	14	48,376	13	40,038

The tonnage represents the total net register.

Post offices are maintained at each of the Survey Bases and at South Georgia. Because of the enthusiasm of philatelists the sale of stamps is out of all proportion to the population and forms a large item in the revenue of the Dependencies.

The Colonial Wireless Station at Grytviken is in regular communication with Stanley through which traffic passes overseas.

Chapter 11 : Meteorological Service

The Falkland Islands and Dependencies Meteorological Service (which was established in 1950) is constituted as an integral part of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey and it embraces also the forecasting offices at South Georgia and Stanley, Falkland Islands. The headquarters of the service is at Stanley, and the cost of its operation is carried on the Dependencies Budget, with a contribution from the Colony.

The general functions of the service are :

1. Provision of forecasting services for the whaling fleets operating in the waters of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies.

2. Provision of local forecasts in the Falkland Islands for the general public, for coastal shipping, and the Government Air Service.
3. The organisation of meteorological observations in the Falkland Islands and Dependencies and the broadcasting of this information in the form of collective synoptic messages designed for international use.
4. The collection and publication of climatic data.
5. Limited investigation into the meteorology of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies area.

Forecasting Services

The Stanley forecast office continued during 1952 and 1953 to issue two local area forecasts each day for the use of the general public and coastal shipping. Forecasts were also supplied, as required, to the Government Air Service operating over the Islands, and to ships at sea on their way to and from Falkland Islands ports. During the summer, additional forecasting services were provided to meet the needs of shore-based whalers at South Georgia, and the pelagic whaling fleets operating in the waters of the Dependencies. These services took the form of special forecast bulletins issued from both Stanley and Grytviken, South Georgia, covering about two million square miles of the South Atlantic and Antarctic Oceans, south of 50 degrees South, between latitudes 70 and 10 degrees West. The bulletins, which were issued thrice daily, contained gale and storm warnings and brief synoptic analyses, as well as forecasts. Those transmitted from Stanley, covering the western half of the area (west of 40° W.) were followed almost immediately by those from Grytviken which covered the area east of 40° W. Thus vessels operating near the centre of the area were served by two bulletins both of which could be intercepted in a comparatively short time. The broadcasts were made on two frequencies simultaneously and the wavelengths were chosen to ensure reception in all parts of the area. During the summer an additional local forecast for the Falkland Islands was issued in the late evening, and proved useful in planning activities for the following morning.

Reporting Stations and FICOL

In addition to Stanley and Grytviken, full reporting stations were maintained at the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey Bases at Signy Island, Admiralty Bay, Deception Island and Argentine Islands. The Station at Hope Bay, which re-opened in January, 1952, maintained a full programme of observations from May of that year. At all these stations observations were taken at three-hourly intervals throughout the day and night, and pilot balloon ascents, to determine the speed and direction of upper winds, were made whenever conditions were suitable. A more modest programme of observations was undertaken at the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey Base at Port Lockroy, which is devoted largely to ionospheric investigations. Daily observations were made at three outstations in the Falkland Islands in 1952, and at four in 1953. Fox Bay and Pebble Island

reported in both years, and the closing of Port Stephens early in 1953 was offset by the re-opening of the Darwin Station and the establishment of a new one on West Point Island. Reports for 12, 18 and 23 hours G.M.T. and the results of all pilot balloon ascents were collected in headquarters within a very short time of the observations being made. They were then re-issued in collective messages called "FICOL" for interception over a wide area extending as far as Rio de Janeiro in the north and Cape Town, South Africa, in the east. These messages also contained reports from ships when available, and (with the permission of the Director, Meteorological Office, Air Ministry,) the results of all upper air soundings made by the Air Ministry Radio-Sonde Unit in Stanley were also included. Broadcasts were made on two frequencies simultaneously and, to ensure reception over long distances, one of the main radio transmitters at the Government wireless station, which has a power of $3\frac{1}{2}$ kw., was used for this purpose.

Climatological Work

Detailed monthly returns, based on a continuous weather watch day and night, were maintained by all main stations and simpler returns were made at Port Lockroy and the Falkland Islands outstations.

The climatological summaries for the period from 1944-50, which are being compiled under the supervision of the Meteorological Office, London, were almost ready for publication by the end of 1953, and will include a historical gazetteer of stations and an explanatory text. The annual summaries for 1951 and 1952 were completed and printed locally at the Government Printing Office in Stanley.

Air Ministry Upper Air Unit

Since 1947 the Meteorological Office of the Air Ministry has maintained a Radio-Sonde Unit in Stanley and this has continued to make regular daily flights during 1952 and 1953. Using British Radio-Sonde and Radar wind-finding equipment the Unit measures temperatures, humidities and winds to high levels, usually to more than 50,000 feet. The Air Ministry accepts financial liability for this work, and provides the staff, but, with the permission of the Director, the results are included in the collective messages and climatological publications of the local service.

Staff

A total of 13 comprise the headquarters establishment in Stanley. This figure includes clerical and other ancillary staff but does not include the staff of the Radio-Sonde Unit, which consists of four men. Most of the specialist staff are drawn from the Meteorological Office and they serve on secondment from the Air Ministry. On the Antarctic Bases there are normally three meteorologists, and, in addition, a Forecasting Officer serves at South Georgia. At the Falklands outstations observations are made by enthusiastic and competent part-time observers, who receive a modest annual payment for their services.

Detailed Annual Reports on the Falkland Islands and Dependencies Meteorological Service are presented each year to the Governor by the Chief Meteorological Officer.

Chapter 12 : Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey

WORK AT BASES DURING 1951

Only five stations, Deception Island, Argentine Island, Admiralty Bay, Signy Island and South Georgia, were maintained in the Falkland Islands Dependencies during 1951. These stations were mainly occupied with meteorology ; they kept continuous watch on the weather throughout the 24 hours and transmitted their observations thrice daily to Stanley.

In addition Deception Island station made a series of ionospheric recordings three times a day between August and December using manually operated equipment prefabricated by the Ionospheric Station at Port Stanley. Admiralty Bay and Signy Island stations made maps of their local areas and undertook some routine bird ringing. At South Georgia a detailed biological study was made on the Elephant Seal (*Mirounga leonina*) which completed the investigations made at Signy Island during 1948 and 1949.

ANNUAL RELIEF 1951-52

The annual refit and provisioning of the s.v. *John Biscoe* was completed by October when she left Southampton on her 1951-52 relief of Bases. She called at St. Vincent, Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo and Punta Arenas, collecting a new specially designed scow and motor boat unit at the latter port.

The vessel left Port Stanley on her first southern voyage of the season on 7th December and in just under a month had relieved all Bases except the Argentine Islands, and had re-established the station at Port Lockroy.

On her return to the Falkland Islands, stores and equipment for the re-establishment of Hope Bay were loaded before she again sailed for the south on 26th January, 1952. The vessel reached Hope Bay on the 30th, but foul weather, in the course of which she dragged anchors and damaged her rudder badly, caused some delay in the landing of stores and building materials. By 14th February a store shed had been built and fitted out as temporary living quarters for ten men and the main building began to take shape. The *John Biscoe* was then able to continue with the voyage to Admiralty Bay, Port Lockroy and the Argentine Islands to complete their annual relief. She then returned to Hope Bay to find considerable progress had been made with the building operations and finally sailed for Port Stanley where she arrived on 2nd March.

The vessel again left for the south on 7th March, this time for South

Georgia to deliver live sheep and mutton carcasses to the whaling stations and to enable the Auditor and Superintendent of Posts and Telegraphs to pay an official visit to the Government station at Gryt-viken. She returned on 16th March.

The Governor embarked on the s.v. *John Biscoe* on 30th March to make his annual inspection of the Bases ; Deception Island, Port Lockroy, the Argentine Islands, Hope Bay and Admiralty Bay were visited, but before reaching Signy Island it was necessary to divert the ship to Port Stanley on the advice of the Senior Medical Officer because a member of the hydrographic party was seriously ill ; this young man unfortunately died within five hours of reaching home. Extensive fields of pack ice were encountered during the journey and the ship's behaviour in ice impressed everyone on board. Very heavy seas were experienced across Drake's Passage, resulting in the destruction of the new scow and damage to the motor boat.

The hydrographic survey party under Lieutenant F. W. Hunt, R.N., made considerable progress during the season working from the s.v. *John Biscoe*. Further survey data was collected for the South Orkneys and Shetlands and for South Georgia, Trinity Peninsula and Wiencke Island. A number of taut wire runs were made during voyages to fix the positions of the various land masses in relationship to each other.

The vessel sailed for England on 17th June and took 30 days for the voyage.

WORK AT BASES DURING 1952

All Bases, except Port Lockroy, which kept a detailed weather log, maintained full-scale meteorological observations with pilot balloon ascents whenever weather permitted. South Georgia and Port Stanley continued to issue weather forecasts.

Port Lockroy, re-established as an ionospheric station, made hourly observations throughout most of the year using a more efficient type of equipment than that used the previous year at Deception Island.

The new hut at Hope Bay was sufficiently advanced by the end of March for the party to move in. Some medical research (haemotological and urinary vitamin C investigations) was attempted and results proved interesting. Personnel also did some routine bird ringing and biological observations and collection. A shortage of seals for dog food during the first half of the year delayed the start of the sledging programme. It was necessary for parties to go as far afield as View Point, 16 miles away, to hunt seals. In spite of this delay two main journeys of over 300 miles each were made during which most of the survey and geology of the southern half of James Ross Island was completed and a large depot of food and fuel laid at the Seal Nunataks.

Signy Island station did some bird ringing and made a series of seal counts. Material was collected from Weddell Seals for investigations into the sex and cycle of the male, early embryonic growth and the ovarian cycle through the lactation period.

The South Georgia Survey Expedition was hampered by periods of bad weather, but their results justified the effort.

The s.v. *John Biscoe* underwent her usual refit during the late summer and autumn of 1952.

She sailed for the Falkland Islands in October and left on her first southern voyage on 24th November. She visited Hope Bay, Deception Island, Admiralty Bay, Signy Island and South Georgia and arrived back in Port Stanley on 17th December having enjoyed a comparatively ice-free voyage.

She left again for the Dependencies on 13th January, 1953, but unfortunately sustained serious damage to her rudder and steering gear while collecting provisions for the voyage from Darwin station in the Falkland Islands. She was forced to return to Port Stanley for temporary repairs and to unload all cargo before proceeding to Montevideo for dry-docking. She finally sailed from Stanley for the Dependencies on 25th February. She visited all Bases and South Georgia to deliver stores and mail and to complete the annual relief and returned to Port Stanley on 24th April.

During the voyage over a week was spent at the Argentine Islands laying the foundations for a new building to be erected during the 1953-54 season to accommodate the larger staff required for the scientific research programme scheduled for 1954. The main building at Admiralty Bay was also badly in need of repair and part of it had to be pulled down and re-erected on new foundations. New store sheds were built at Hope Bay and at Admiralty Bay.

The second voyage, first delayed by the mishap at Darwin and then by difficult ice conditions, was the last of the season and s.v. *John Biscoe* sailed for the United Kingdom on 11th May and arrived on 11th June.

On her return it became known that Her Majesty the Queen had been pleased to grant permission for the re-designation of the Survey Vessel as Royal Research Ship. She was invited to take part in the Coronation Naval Review at Spithead and work on painting the hull started almost immediately. She was ready just in time and took up her position next to the Canadian Ice Breaker *Diberville*. It was a fitting climax to a trying but successful season.

WORK AT BASES DURING 1953

Again in 1953 the emphasis was on meteorology but there was a considerable increase in other activities.

The latest type of automatic ionospheric equipment was installed at Port Lockroy early in the year and has since been running continuously.

At Deception the normal Base complement of six was augmented in November by two surveyors who made a complete survey of the slands.

At Hope Bay shortage of seals persisted throughout 1953 and it was necessary to maintain parties at View Point for most of the year. To make their lot easier, a small permanent hut was erected and sub-

sequently equipped as a sub-meteorological station. The meteorological observations taken were transmitted to Hope Bay for onward transmission to Port Stanley and provided an interesting comparison between the weather on each side of Trinity Peninsula. Medical research, ornithology and biological collection continued as well as local survey and geology.

A number of important sledge journeys were made during the year including one in the middle of winter to Jason Island. The party covered a total distance of 720 miles in 75 days and completed the topographical survey of Robertson and Jason Islands together with some geology of the areas. Several depot laying journeys were also made and a limited amount of survey and geology was done at the same time.

On 7th December a four-man party, fully equipped and with dog teams, was landed at Joinville Island with plans for making a complete survey of the island as well as Dundee and D'Urville.

Signy island station continued with their ornithological studies and seal counts and made geological collections locally and on Coronation Island.

The South Georgia Survey Expedition returned to South Georgia in October to complete the survey and geology of the island. Once again they have experienced a number of set-backs and it seems unlikely they will achieve all they set out to do.

Another party arrived at South Georgia by the same vessel in October and are to make an intensive study of the King Penguin and some seal observations during 1954 in the vicinity of the Bay of Isles.

PART II

Chapter 1 : Geography

THE Dependencies include all lands and islands south of 50° of south latitude between the meridians of 20° and 50° west longitude and south of 58° of south latitude between 50° and 80° west longitude. There are two main groups, the one consisting of South Georgia with the South Orkneys and the South Sandwich Islands, and the other of the South Shetlands with Grahamland. They are defined in the Falkland Islands Letters Patent of 21st July, 1908, as amended by the Letters Patent of 28th March, 1917.

The island of South Georgia lies about 800 miles to the east of the Falkland Islands, in $54\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ south latitude, the South Orkneys and the South Sandwich Islands being 450 miles to the south-west and south-east respectively of South Georgia. The northern point of the South Shetlands is about 500 miles to the south of the Falkland Islands.

South Georgia has an area of about 1,450 square miles, is about 100 miles in length with a maximum breadth of about 20 miles and consists mainly of steep mountains. There is little flat land and the island is almost entirely barren, the main vegetation being grass which grows on the north-eastern side of the island, where the snow melts in the summer. There are no indigenous mammals other than seals, but reindeer were introduced in 1911, and there is now a large, wild herd. There are many sea-birds, including penguins and albatrosses. The coastline has been fairly charted. Although South Georgia is a little more than a hundred miles farther south than Stanley, the difference in climate is very marked, that of the former approximating closely to conditions in the Antarctic. The mountains are covered by an extensive snow field throughout the year and the glaciers descend on a grand scale to the sea.

The other Dependencies are Antarctic in character being very mountainous with many glaciers and almost completely snow-covered throughout the year.

Several instances of volcanic activity have been recorded at Deception Island, South Shetlands. The first earthquake of which there is any definite report occurred in 1923, although some of the whalers stated that shocks were felt in 1912. In February, 1924, a strong tremor was experienced at Deception Island where the occasion was marked by the collapse of a large rock forming the top of a well-known natural arch named the "Sewing Machine" on account of its shape. In 1925 one of the giant columns in the entrance to the harbour disappeared. Again, in the season 1928-29 several earthquake shocks were felt, the most pronounced being in March, 1929, when a large quantity of rock fell, completely changing the formation of the ridge on the east side of the harbour. The water in the harbour of Port Foster frequently became agitated by subterranean heat, and the beaches in places were obscured by the steam. Volcanic activity has been observed in the South Sandwich group.

Chapter 2 : History

South Georgia was explored and taken possession of for Great Britain by Captain Cook, who landed there in 1775, the year in which he also discovered the South Sandwich group. The South Orkneys were discovered by Captain Powell on the British ship *Dove* who landed on Coronation Island on 7th December, 1821, and took possession of the group in the name of King George IV. The South Shetlands were discovered by W. Smith, who landed and took possession in 1819, and they were examined by Captain Bransfield in 1829. Captain Bransfield also discovered Grahamland, and John Biscoe explored its west coast in 1832 when he took possession for Great Britain. Profitable sealing voyages to South Georgia were made prior to 1793 and British whalers were reported there in 1819.

Fur-sealing in the Dependencies achieved such proportions in the early part of the nineteenth century that voyages were made to them in the two seasons 1820–21 and 1821–22 by no less than 91 ships. So reckless was the slaughter that the fur-seal was practically exterminated. James Weddell stated that by 1822–24 these animals were almost extinct.

A meteorological station on Laurie Island in the South Orkneys was established in 1903 by the Scottish expedition under Dr. W. S. Bruce and, with the assent of the Government, was transferred by him in 1904 to the Argentine Government, by whom it is maintained by permission of the British Authorities.

Later history is mainly concerned with the whaling industry. From 1906 to the present day, whaling has been carried on in South Georgia by companies which are the lessees of the Administration.

In the South Shetlands the whaling lasted from 1906 to 1931. There was one leasehold land station at Deception Island, and floating factories operated in various well-known anchorages under licences from the Administration, but the pelagic development resulted in a rapid withdrawal of the fleet towards the end of the nineteen-twenties and to the complete abandonment of the field.

There was also a leasehold land station at Signy Island, South Orkneys, which operated from 1920 to 1923. The station, however, was not a success and in 1923 the company was granted permission to operate under licence with a floating factory and catchers. Operations were continued on this base up to and including the season of 1930–31.

Whaling activities at South Georgia were reduced to one station in 1932–33 as a result of the depression in the oil market. Two companies operated from 1933–34 to 1939–40 and also in 1941–42. Owing to the war one station only was worked in each of the seasons 1940–41, 1942–43, 1943–44 and 1944–45. Three companies began operating in the season 1945–46 and have continued to do so each year since that date.

Chapter 3 : Administration

The Dependencies are subject to the authority of the Governor and his Executive Council, the former being empowered under the Letters Patent of 1948 to legislate for the Dependencies.

An Administrative Officer, who is also Magistrate, and an official staff are maintained in South Georgia, and control over whaling operations in the Dependencies is carried out by representatives of the Government who accompany the expeditions as required.

There is no local government in South Georgia ; in fact, there are no communities other than the whaling stations which are run by the managers on behalf of the several companies owning them.

At each of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey Bases there is a Magistrate who is one of the members of the survey party.

Chapter 4 : Weights and Measures

Imperial and metric weights and measures are in general use.

Chapter 5 : Reading List

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- No. 2. *A New Method of Age Determination in Mammals with Special Reference to the Elephant Seal.* By R. M. LAWS. 3s. 0d. (3s. 1½d.).
- No. 3. *The Upper Cretaceous Cephalopod Fauna of Grahamland.* By L. F. SPATH. £1 10s. 0d. (£1 10s. 5d.).
- No. 4. *Lower Cretaceous Gastropoda, Lamellibranchia and Annelida from Alexander I Land.* By L. R. COX. 5s. 6d. (5s. 7½d.).
- No. 5. *Fossil Penguins from the Mid-Tertiary of Seymour Island.* By B. J. MARPLES. 5s. 6d. (5s. 7½d.).
- No. 6. *Emperor Penguin. (I) Breeding Behaviour and Development.* By B. STONEHOUSE. 10s. 6d. (10s. 9d.).
- No. 7. *The Geology of South Georgia—I.* By A. F. TRENDALL. 8s. 6d. (8s. 8d.).
- No. 8. *The Elephant Seal. No. 1. Growth and Age.* By R. M. LAWS. £1 0s. 0d. (£1 0s. 4d.).
- No. 9. *New Evidence of Sea-Level Changes in the Falkland Islands.* By R. J. ADIE, October 1st, 1952. 4s. 0d. (4s. 1½d.).
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